for Work Programme which was in operation in the country a few years ago;

(b) if so, what was the main thrust of this Programme; and

(c) whether special attention will be paid to provide employment to the rural landless particularly in the tribal areas in order to alleviate po verty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (to) Considering the present availability of wheat stocks, the States have been permitted to distribute foodgrains at their discretion at the rate of 2 kg. per manday, the additional kg. of food grains being in the form of wheat. The question of revival of Food for Work Programme which has already been replaced by NREP from October. 1980 does not arise

(c) Special attention to provide employment to the rural landless is paid under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme which envisages taking up of works in areas which are backward and have predominant population of unemployed landless labour particularly of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Development of professionalism in Doordarshan and AIR

2885. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the facilities available with Doordarshan for training of personnel and professional development in AIR and Doordarshan:

(b) whether the training institutes of Akashvani are adequately equipped for the purpose; and

(c) if not, what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Training to Programme and Engineering staff of Door-darshan is imparted at Staff Training Institute (Technical) AIR, New Delhi, FTII Pune and Space Applica tion Centre, Ahmedabad.

Apart from this, Doordarshan News Staff is sent for training at I.I.M.C., New Delhi for training in the areas of News and Current Affairs. The training for Administrative staff is arranged at Institute of Secretariat Training and Management and also at AIR-Staff Training Institute (Programme). Refresher Courses are alsc held at individual centres.

The staff are also sent for training abro'ad at Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcast Development and to training courses in foreign countries made available under Colombo Plan an^ other bilateral schemes.

(b) and (c) Imparting training to staff employed in the electronic media where technology changes very fast is a challenging task. In view of the vast expansion of TV and AIR there has been a corresponding increase both in' the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the Training to be imparted to the personnel of AIR and Doordarshan.

A full fledged Staff Training Institute (Technical) and Staff Training Institute (Programme) with modern facilities has been constructed at Kingsway Camp, Delhi, during the Sixth Plan. The requirement of equip-I ment and other facilities is proposed to be met during the Seventh Plan.

It is also proposed to set up three Regional Training Centres for En-gineering Personnel at Pune, Madras

and Gauhati. The Regional Training Institutes for Programme Personnel are also proposed to be expanded in the Seventh Plan.

The implementation of the 7th Plan Schemes would depend on the final shape of the plan and the allotment of funds made.

Permanent measures of drought prone areas

2886. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take permanent measures in the drought prone areas in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the schemes prepared for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The Drought Prone Areas Programme in selected blocks in the country is in operation from the Fourth Plan to provide permanent measures to mitigate the effects of drought. The programme has an integrated area approach and aims at restoration of ecological balance and optional development of land, water, livestock and human resources with improvement in productivity. The schemes taken up include adoption of proper land use practices and cropping pattern under dry land agriculture, soil and moisture conservation and water harvesting, minor irrigation, afforestation and pasture/fodder development, livestock development. horticulture, sericulture, fisheries etc. The programme has been continued in the Seventh Plan with the coverage increasing to 615 block$_s$ a? against 511 blocks m the Sixth plan.

2887. *[Transferred to the 22nd August,* 1985.]

Support price for cotton

2888. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it s a fact that there has been delay in declaration of sup port price of cotton for the year 1985-86;

(b) whether Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission declares support price of all varieties of cotton or only few varieties; and

(c) by when the support price is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has submitted its report on Price policy for Kharif Crops, including Cotton, for 1985-86 Season. According to the existing procedure, the report of the Commission has been circulated to State Governments and concerned Central Ministries in order to elicit their views. Replies have since, been received from some of the States and the Central Ministries. However, some major States are yet to send their views on the Commission's report, Government's decision on the support price of cotton will be finalised as soon as the views of the remaining States are received.

The CACP has recommended support prices of raw cotton in respect of two basic varieties, F-414/H-777 and H-4, the former in the medium/superior medium group and the latter in the long/superior long group. After the Government's decision on the minimum support prices of the two basic varieties, the Textile Commissioner in the Department of Textiles will fix the minimum support prices of other varieties of cotton in diffe-